

I want to keep this short and to the point. As a law-abiding consumer, I find the proposed Broadcast Flag to be an annoyance that greatly, perhaps completely, denigrates the utility of the digital medium. As a technology professional, I can assure that, while the Broadcast Flag will likely erect an effective barrier the casual pirate, it will do absolutely nothing to deter or frustrate the educated and determined hacker. With the ever-increasing sophistication of peer-to-peer file-sharing networks, it will soon be impossible to prevent the general distribution of pirated digital material if even one pirate posts the file.

On the other hand, I understand the point being made by the content-producers; they are being robbed, and they want the same protections any other manufacturer is accorded under the law. I am a professional programmer, and thereby also a produce of digital content; I loathe pirates, and will support a solution that allows me to control the distribution of my product. This is not such a solution. Moreover, it gives content producers control over not only their product, but also over the hardware used to access that product. Allowing content producers to decide what technologies are "allowable" is not an acceptable tradeoff for a copy-protection technology that will not work.

In closing, I urge you to refuse the Broadcast Flag proposal as currently proposed.